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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
9721 Executive Center Drive North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

November 13, 2002 F/SER44/RH:jk  
225/389-0508

Mr. Jack V. Ferguson, Chief  
Permits Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has received your letter dated October 11, 2002, regarding the re-issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for LOOP, LLC. The permit presently authorizes discharges from a deepwater port, pipelines, and storage facilities for the transportation of crude oil between Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana. In your letter, you indicated that the Environmental Protection Agency had determined that re-issuance of this permit is not likely to adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and you requested our concurrence with this determination.

NOAA Fisheries has reviewed the information transmitted with your letter and agrees that re-issuance of this NPDES permit is not likely to result in adverse effects to EFH. As such, we have no EFH Conservation Recommendations to provide and do not object to re-issuance of this NPDES permit.

Sincerely,

Br Andreas Mager, Jr.  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Habitat Conservation Division

C:  
NOD, Regulatory  
FWS, Lafayette  
LA DNR - Consistency  
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